

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7015

BILL NUMBER: HB 1372

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2015

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Richardson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *Use of Penalty Revenue-* The bill provides that money received from civil penalties collected by a county election board may be used for any purpose relating to implementation of Indiana election law in the county.

Precinct Size- The bill increases from 1,200 to 2,000 the maximum number of active voters who may reside in a precinct.

Absentee Voting- The bill provides that in a county that uses electronic poll books for absentee voting in the office of the circuit court clerk or at a satellite office, a voter is not required to file an absentee ballot application but is required only to sign the absentee ballot affidavit and the electronic poll book.

Absentee Ballot Application- The bill provides that any voter may submit an absentee ballot application by electronic mail. (Under current law only absent uniformed service voters, overseas voters, and address confidentiality voters are permitted to submit an application by electronic mail.)

Absentee Ballots of Deceased Voters- The bill requires that an absentee ballot marked and forwarded by a voter who subsequently dies be counted if the absentee ballot would otherwise be entitled to be counted if the voter had not died.

Traveling Absentee Voter Boards- The bill lengthens the period during which a traveling absentee voter board may visit a voter at the voter's place of confinement or residence from 12 days before an election to 19 days before an election.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Use of Penalty Revenue-* Revenue from campaign finance civil penalties would be able to be used for any election-related purpose. County fiscal bodies would have the oversight, as in current law, for use of the revenue.

Precinct Size- In theory, a larger population served per precinct would reduce the number of precincts that a county election board would have to provide poll workers. Therefore, counties could realize a reduction in poll worker per diem expenses. However, counties that typically have difficulty finding enough poll workers for an election may have a better opportunity to completely staff precinct election boards as a result of this provision.

Absentee Voting- This provision would reduce the amount of paper applications filled out by voters and processed by poll workers. The savings in administrative time could help poll workers assist more voters and improve overall voting efficiency.

Absentee Ballot Application- This provision may also help county election officials to more quickly process applications sent electronically instead of processing paper applications.

Absentee Ballots of Deceased Voters- Some administrative time of precinct election board workers could be saved if deceased voter ballots no longer were required to be separated from absentee ballots that were eligible to be voted.

Traveling Absentee Voter Boards- An extra seven days of operation time for traveling absentee voter boards would increase board member per diem expenditures by an indeterminable amount. Depending on the number of boards that a county employs during elections, it is not likely the increase in expenditures would be significant.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards, precinct election boards, traveling absentee ballot election boards.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.